

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed July 25, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections

The Final Office Action rejects Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0002955 A1 for Gadbois (“*Gadbois*”). The Final Office Action rejects Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gadbois* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,834,286 issued to Srinivasan (“*Srinivasan*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for use in a Web Services system that includes providing a Web Services Directory having object classes and attributes. Attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class are defined. *Gadbois* does not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations.

The Final Office Action contends that *Gadbois* discloses these limitations and that “several of the object classes in FIGURE 2 have attributes associated with them.” *See Final Office Action*, Page 5. Applicants respectfully disagree.

At the outset, there is no basis for the interpretation of “attributes” proposed by the Final Office Action. In rejecting Claim 1, the Final Office Action has arbitrarily selected three elements of FIGURE 2 (elements 232, 242, and 252) and labeled them as “attributes.” *See Final Office Action*, Page 5. However, *Gadbois* refers to these elements as nodes, such as Groups node 232, Business Services node 242, and PublisherAssertions node 252. *See Gadbois*, Paragraph 0028. Nodes, according to the teachings of *Gadbois*, are specifically defined as object classes in the DIT. *See Gadbois*, Paragraph 0026. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that referring to elements 232, 242, and 252 as “attributes” is a clear mischaracterization of the teachings of *Gadbois*.

Moreover, if the Final Office Action's definition of attribute were correct, which Applicants entertain for argument's sake only, then any interior node of a DIT would be an attribute, and attributes would contain links to other attributes. Such an over-inclusive definition of attributes would even include the "organization" nodes, since they are interior nodes coupled to the "HOST" node. Thus, the Final Office Action's definition of attribute would remove all meaning from the term and obscure what a person of ordinary skill in the art would envision as attributes.

However, even assuming for the sake of argument that the identified nodes in FIGURE 2 of *Gadbois* are attributes, the attributes do not correspond to a specific object class, as recited in Claim 1. Nothing in *Gadbois* or the Final Office Action suggests defining attributes of a specific type corresponding to a specific object class. In contrast, teachings of some aspects of the present invention recognize that searching may be optimized by defining attributes that correspond to a specific object class. *See Specification*, Page 16, lines 26-30. Establishing attributes corresponding to a specific object class also simplifies the writing of searches and reduces the potential to return unbounded search results. *See Specification*, Page 17, lines 3-12. Accordingly, the simple fact that *Gadbois* discloses defining nodes in a DIT does not teach, suggest, or disclose "defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class." For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois*.

In order to establish a prima facie case of anticipation using *Gadbois*, the Final Office Action must identify a Web Services Directory that includes object classes (plural) and attributes (plural). Moreover, the Final Office Action must identify attributes (plural) of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class (singular). The Final Office Action does not do so.

Similar to Claim 1, Claim 7 includes a limitation regarding "defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class." As discussed above, *Gadbois* does not disclose, teach or suggest each of these limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 7 is patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois*.

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 or Claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are patentably distinguishable from *Gadbois* for example, for the same reasons discussed above with regard to their respective base claims. Thus, all of the rejections of the Final Office Action are based upon an incorrect interpretation of the teachings of *Gadbois*. *Srinivasan* fails to cure this deficiency.

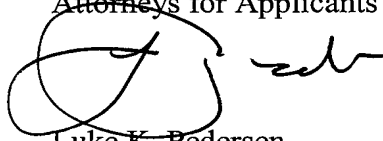
Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

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